

As an Amateur Radio Licensee (KC9APM) I would like to support the Petition of Eric Ward, N0HHS, who seeks immediate elimination of "proficiency in telegraphy using Morse code."

I agree with his position that the "immediate removal of the telegraphy requirement from Amateur Radio licensing is appropriate and clearly in the public interest,"

The commission should delete Element 1 from all classes of Amateur Radio Licensee testing and should give "Tech Plus" privileges to current Technician licensees.

The Amateur Service community suffers from the loss to its ranks of a large number of potentially excellent operators who are turned off because of the CW requirement.

I feel that there is no longer any reasonable justification for requiring an applicant to demonstrate this antiquated skill. .

When amateur radio first was licensed by the commission there was a rational reason to require knowledge of Morse Code (CW) as it was one of the primary methods of radio communications. It no longer holds such an important and dominant role.

Morse Code (CW) today is one of many modes of communications used on the amateur bands and also in general radio communications. The commission does not require a practical demonstration that applicants for amateur radio licenses demonstrate their ability to communicate using voice (Am, FM digital or other modes), nor does it require a demonstration of the ability to communicate using RTTY, packet, PSK and Slow Scan TV or other modes. Morse code in today's world is no greater in importance than these other modes. It should no longer enjoy the special status of requiring a practical demonstration prior to licensing.

The reduced importance of Morse Code has now been de-facto acknowledged by the world body this summer at WARC. They now leave the decision of CW testing (or not) up to each country's licensing authority. So far it has been reported that a number of countries have already eliminated or plan to eliminate the Morse Code testing demonstration for amateur radio licensees. There is no reasonable excuse for the commission not to do likewise.

Please eliminate the Morse Code requirement (Element 1) for all Classes of Amateur Radio License and please do so as fast as possible.